

NEWSWEEK
July 17, 1967

FOIAb3b

THE PERISCOPE

COPYRIGHT

The True Story of Amelia Earhart

The Navy has decided to open to the public one of the U.S. Government's oldest secret files: the story of its four-week search for Amelia Earhart, who disappeared in the South Pacific in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world. Secrecy was clamped on the story at the time because the Navy maneuvered in waters near the Japanese-held Marshall Islands while searching for the aviatrix. By opening its files, the Navy hopes to allay the suspicion—repeated in a recent best-seller—that Miss Earhart was actually spying for the Navy when lost. Radio messages in the files indicate that Miss Earhart flew past her rendezvous point on the island of Howland at 10:30 a.m. without seeing it, became lost and went down after running out of fuel.